

Relational Perspectives Book Series

The Émigré Analysts and American Psychoanalysis

History and Contemporary Relevance



Edited by Adrienne E. Harris



“As always, Adrienne Harris brings us to the heart of the intrinsic intertwining of psychoanalysis, politics, and personal history. From its inception in Freud’s childhood migration to now, and especially during the rise of Hitler and Nazism, psychoanalysis has been a field of émigrés, immigrants, and refugees. This compelling book, with essays by analysts, historians, and social scientists, portrays this history through multiple lenses: Jewish Vienna and Budapest, women analysts, the impact of McCarthyism, through to the Argentine psychoanalytic diaspora. It reclaims the radical history of analysts and analysis, beautifully balancing history, politics, biography, individual testimony, and resonant accounts of everyday life.”

Nancy J. Chodorow *is author of The Psychoanalytic Ear and the Sociological Eye, Individualizing Gender and Sexuality, The Power of Feelings and other works*

“This extraordinary book, which comprises several papers by a group of psychoanalysts, offers one of the most thought-provoking insights of a complex and difficult part of the history of psychoanalytical culture and institutions, antisemitism, forced migrations and political activism, and comes as a breath of fresh air in its understanding of the current worldwide political unrest, uncertainty and loss that has ensued. Often complex political and social problems are narrowed down to a very particular narrative which tends to offer slogans and platitudes, but this group of papers written by courageous and insightful psychoanalysts who defy the usual accounts, in which truth becomes an orthodoxy already known to an enlightened few, whose job is to inform everyone else, with ringing statements of condemnation and exhortation. However, this group of papers is based on a broader analytical approach, where truth is a collective discovery, and which reflects on the actual problem and pain confronting individuals in their lives, and the solutions and reliefs which psychoanalysis can offer.”

Ronald Doctor *is a fellow of the British Psychoanalytical Society, London, chair of the IPA Psychoanalysis and Law committee, member of the Steering Committee, IPA in the Community and the World, and consultant psychiatrist, West London NHS Trust*

“This book, compiled by Adrienne Harris with chapters by distinguished authors, is a major contribution to the psychoanalytic understanding of migration and loss. The authors address history, theory, and contemporary

experiences of migration. They discuss the notions of uprooting and the grief of losing one's place of origin, culture, language, and all that one sees as familiar in day-to-day life. Migration is a bit like losing Mother Earth – it shakes one's identity. But it can also be a source of hope, offering the possibility of enrichment and depth in the encounter with the other and that which is different. To understand the other, the other land, the other society, and one's newly emerging other self, offers the opportunity to walk in the shoes of those that are different from us and develop an ability to understand that which is foreign.

The Émigré Analysts and American Psychoanalysis, edited by Adrienne Harris, is a psychoanalytic effort that challenges us to understand more and discriminate less in a world currently in the grips of prejudice and xenophobia. It includes chapters by distinguished authors from around the world. Among other topics they address the history of the pre-war migration of psychoanalysis from Central Europe to other parts of the world. This diaspora dispersed the seeds of psychoanalysis to grow and develop in distant lands. And in those distant lands, psychoanalysis, like any other immigrant, was enriched in the process. Other authors address theory and related concepts to help us understand what is psychologically involved in the experiences of emigration and exile. It also takes up the very timely topics of political repression and forced migration.

This book is an important contribution to the study of migration. It addresses a topic that has existed since the beginning of humanity. These chapters give us a contemporary vision of the search for new paths that characterize the human race in its inexhaustible desire to discover the unknown, or in its desperate attempts to flee imminent dangers in search of a safe place to survive or even thrive. *The Émigré Analysts and American Psychoanalysis* will enrich your thinking and be a great addition to your library.”

Adriana Prengler, *vice president of the International Psychoanalytical Association*

The Émigré Analysts and American Psychoanalysis

This book explores the impact of migration, including its causes, upon the key ideas and directions of psychoanalytic theory and practice from the twentieth century until today.

Having originated with a conference called “Émigré Analysts,” developed through the Sandor Ferenczi Center at the New School for Social Research, this collection encompasses a wide array of often personal insights into the historical effects of exile and migration upon psychoanalysis. Divided into three sections, the book first attends to the political crises that affected the exile of psychoanalysts after the Second World War, tracing their journeys from Eastern Europe to the United States; secondly, the rise of antisemitism and the impact of the Holocaust upon these analysts is closely examined; and, finally, this book attends to the protection and safety of analysts forced into exile in our contemporary moment with reference to the work being done by existing national and international psychoanalytic institutions.

As an engaging and thoroughly detailed account of the influence of exile upon American psychoanalysis, this book will be of as much interest to scholars of history and twentieth-century culture as to psychoanalysts and psychoanalytic psychotherapists in training and in practice.

Adrienne E. Harris is faculty and supervisor at the New York University Postdoctoral Program in Psychotherapy and Psychoanalysis. She is on the faculty and is a supervisor at the Psychoanalytic Institute of Northern California. She is an editor of *Psychoanalytic Dialogues* and *Studies in Gender and Sexuality*. In 2009, she, Lewis Aron, and Jeremy Safron established the Sandor Ferenczi Center at the New School University. She and Eyal Rozmarin co-edit the book series *Relational Perspectives in Psychoanalysis* for Routledge.



The Relational Perspectives Book Series (RPBS) publishes books that grow out of or contribute to the relational tradition in contemporary psychoanalysis. The term *relational psychoanalysis* was first used by Greenberg and Mitchell¹ to bridge the traditions of interpersonal relations, as developed within interpersonal psychoanalysis and object relations, as developed within contemporary British theory. But, under the seminal work of the late Stephen A. Mitchell, the term *relational psychoanalysis* grew and began to accrue to itself many other influences and developments. Various tributaries – interpersonal psychoanalysis, object relations theory, self-psychology, empirical infancy research, feminism, queer theory, sociocultural studies, and elements of contemporary Freudian and Kleinian thought – flow into this tradition, which understands relational configurations between self and others, both real and fantasied, as the primary subject of psychoanalytic investigation.

We refer to the relational tradition, rather than to a relational school, to highlight that we are identifying a trend – a tendency within contemporary psychoanalysis – not a more formally organized or coherent school or system of beliefs. Our use of the term *relational* signifies a dimension of theory and practice that has become salient across the wide spectrum of contemporary psychoanalysis. Now under the editorial supervision of Adrienne Harris and Eyal Rozmarin, the Relational Perspectives Book Series originated in 1990 under the editorial eye of the late Stephen A. Mitchell. Mitchell was the most prolific and influential of the originators of the relational tradition. Committed to dialogue among psychoanalysts, he abhorred the authoritarianism that dictated adherence to a rigid set of beliefs or technical restrictions. He championed open discussion, comparative and integrative approaches, and promoted new voices across the generations. Mitchell was

later joined by the late Lewis Aron, also a visionary and influential writer, teacher and leading thinker in relational psychoanalysis.

Included in the Relational Perspectives Book Series are authors and works that come from within the relational tradition, those that extend and develop that tradition, and works that critique relational approaches or compare and contrast them with alternative points of view. The series includes our most distinguished senior psychoanalysts, along with younger contributors who bring fresh vision. Our aim is to enable a deepening of relational thinking while reaching across disciplinary and social boundaries to foster an inclusive and international literature.

A full list of titles in this series is available at www.routledge.com/Relational-Perspectives-Book-Series/book-series/LEARPBS.

Note

- 1 Greenberg, J., and Mitchell, S. (1983). *Object Relations in Psychoanalytic Theory*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.



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The Émigré Analysts and American Psychoanalysis

History and Contemporary Relevance

Edited by Adrienne E. Harris

Designed cover image: Nisian Hughes © Getty Images

First published 2023

by Routledge

4 Park Square, Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 4RN

and by Routledge

605 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10158

Routledge is an imprint of the Taylor & Francis Group, an informa business

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individual chapters, the contributors

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British Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British
Library

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Harris, Adrienne, editor.

Title: The émigré analysts and American psychoanalysis : history
and contemporary relevance / edited by Adrienne E. Harris.

Description: 1 Edition. | New York : Routledge, 2023. | Includes
bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2022056671 (print) | LCCN 2022056672

(ebook) | ISBN 9781032209852 (hardback) |

ISBN 9781032209869 (paperback) | ISBN 9781003266228

(ebook)

Subjects: LCSH: Psychoanalysis—United States—History—20th
century. | Psychoanalysts—Europe—History—20th century. |
Psychoanalysts—United States—History—20th century. |
Europe—Emigration and immigration—History—20th century. |
United States—Emigration and immigration—History—20th
century.

Classification: LCC BF173 .E635 2023 (print) | LCC BF173
(ebook) | DDC 150.19/5—dc23/eng/20230322

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2022056671>

LC ebook record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2022056672>

ISBN: 978-1-032-20985-2 (hbk)

ISBN: 978-1-032-20986-9 (pbk)

ISBN: 978-1-003-26622-8 (ebk)

DOI: 10.4324/9781003266228

Typeset in Times New Roman
by Apex CoVantage, LLC

In memory of Lewis Aron, whose attention to our
history inspired this project.



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<http://taylorandfrancis.com>

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